

North Fort Worth Alliance
Mar 17, 2012
Minutes

President Rusty Fuller opened the meeting at 9:00 am, introducing himself, and our guest speaker Winjie Tang Miao, and her associate, Melissa Reichardt from Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital. Also introduced was Dennis Arens, a Voter Registrar who will talk to us about voter registration and elections.

Rusty reported that the Alliance had formed a redistricting committee, consisting of Robert Rouse, Bill Lebo, and himself. They have been putting together a couple of scenarios: They recommend 2 solutions which will include 3 districts in the NFWA area, represented by Sal Espino, Danny Scarth, and Joel Burns. The second proposal would be two districts in the NFWA, represented by Sal Espino and Danny Scarth.

The solution provides more reps in our area to build a coalition. All of the current Councilmen in these areas have inner city ties. The committee will submit their recommendations to the City at the end of the month. We will try to make them public and have them on the website.

Rusty introduced Nikki Dunklin, the new community education specialist with the City of Fort Worth's Neighborhood Education Office. Nikki works with all HOA's and will help with anything needed. She will have cards next month. She helps with recycling, planning, things going on, any assistance needed on matters with the City.

After the last meeting, we polled members regarding the salt water disposal wells used in the natural gas extraction operations. The voting members voted in favor of sending a letter to the City Council which is attached. The letter expresses that NFWA favors an extension of the moratorium on new wells, and asks that the City deny the exemption that has been requested in the Alliance area. Rusty has met with City officials and County Commissioner Fickes regarding possible legislation for regulating land use at city/county borders, and proving public input on well decisions.

Rusty reported that the new section of North Beach has been approved. The improvements on Ray White and Thompson Road have not yet been presented to Council. These projects will be going to the Council on the 27th. The City has worked with TxDOT and the County to complete the expansion of Old Denton Road near Golden Triangle, and make sure the hospital will open with an approved certificate of occupancy as currently planned.

The section of Beach to the south of Heritage Trace Parkway has been postponed. There was money allocated, but one of funders backed out, so project has been postponed. We will have to wait until the City can issue the remaining bonds from the 2008 Bond Issue.

Jerry Betts told the group that if they have something they would like us to discuss or look into – bring it up and we'll deal with at next meeting. Feel free to bring up whatever or write it down and give to an officer.

A current issue being looked at is stopping unnecessary truck traffic on Heritage Trace. Jerry is talking with the City about it. They may be able to put up “no trucks” signs.

A member gave a progress report on Harriet Creek – The City responded to the request for repair of the road and installation of sidewalks. They gave a presentation to residents. They will expand the bridge and re-align lanes and add sidewalks.

Cheryl Sayer from McPherson Ranch reported that the City has broken ground on a park at Keller Haslett & Farmington. It will be a public park near the small airplane runway.

A question was raised about whether the new side of Golden Triangle is open now. Rusty answered that yes, the new lanes are now open, and they have fixed the way traffic comes into Golden Triangle from 377.

A member mentioned that traffic near the 7 Eleven at Tehama Ridge and Heritage Trace is getting bad. They wondered if maybe a stop light could be installed at that intersection. Robert Rouse informed members that when such issues are raised, the State does a study and determines whether additional traffic control is needed. If there is no funding for a light, they put in 4 way stop signs, which can create additional problems.

Dennis Arens, Voter Registrar spoke to the group about voter registration.

- You may be registered, but not at your current address. You will need to file a change of address card. You can still vote, but will not be able to vote in your current precinct/district.
- If you are not registered, you can go on line to the Tarrant County website
- Click Quicklink – voter registration
- You must be 18 yrs old and a resident of Tarrant County
- Can also change address here
- Voter registration forms are available on line – you can fill it out and submit to the county.
- Remember Voter Registration cards expired end of last year – new ones will go out around late April. Cards are only good for 2 years.
- You can also confirm your voter registration status on line. Go to “voter look up”: see if you are registered or not, in what precinct, what is your voter id number (you have a state id and a county id) and it tells what ISD, and what taxing authorities you vote in.
- You can also view the ballot sample on this site (for primaries you'll see both Democrat & Republican ballots)
- In the primary, you have to choose a party
- This site will also tell you voting locations (on election day, you must vote in your precinct)

- The fact that you voted is public information – who you voted for is not (except in Primary elections, the record reports which party ballot you requested)
- You can also see on this site who has early voted – then REMIND your neighbors to go vote) (Information is only there for a day or 2 after the election).
- You can vote early; vote by mail – several requirements (out of county, 65 or older, disabled, in jail)
- Click on early voting – print ballot and mail it in
- Info on website for military personnel

Primary Election – May 29 (registration must be in by April 29)

General Election – Nov. 6 (registration must be in by Oct 6)

Jerry informed the group that Jane Kocis, Fran Rhodes, and Ed Ray also voter registrars. It is important for every one to vote – it gets more attention from the City and County for our needs. Going door to door is the best way to get out the vote. Last election, we had lowest turn out from any single area in city of Fort Worth – we need more influence this time! It affects how infrastructure and other resources are allocated. GO VOTE!

Jerry wanted to remind everyone that political promotion is not done on the Alliance Facebook page. Announcements for Meet the Candidate nights must include all candidates' names.

Rusty reminded us that soldiers give their lives to defend this country – the least we can do is show up and vote.

Our next speaker was WinjieTang Miao, with Texas Health, Harris Methodist Hospital. She thanked our group for having her back & thanked us for welcoming Texas Health Hospital into the community. Winjie said that they were worried about Golden Triangle and it could have affected the opening of the hospital. She thanked Representative Truitt and Commissioner Fickes for stepping in – and all folks who wrote letters to her. It opened up communications to help ensure the hospital would open on time.

Winjie stated that construction is on schedule for a September opening. The hospital master plan is for 350 beds, and the hospital will open with 50 beds. There are plans to grow with the community. It will be a full service community based hospital with a medical office building which is now 50% leased.

Jerry Betts mentioned the new Medstar ambulance now stationed near Alliance airport. He asked if Harris Methodist anticipates adding ambulance services in this area, or if we still limited to the one Medstar unit? Winjie said as a hospital, they will work with any EMS unit, and are happy to talk with the City and bring stake holders together, to find solutions. Our group could start having that conversation and coordinating with businesses and cities – get municipalities together and coordinate – pool resources. As a hospital, they stay neutral.

Winjie was asked if they are planning open house. She said that yes, they would have one. She doesn't have dates yet, but it will be posted on the facebook site.

Rusty told us that next month our speaker will be Mark Young, with KISD, speaking about budgeting, and what we can do to encourage legislators to revised education funding formulas. We will also hear from someone from the Tax Assessor's office regarding property taxes either in April or May.

Sarah Grimes suggested for a future speaker to have someone from about water resources and landscaping.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Rhodes
NFWA Secretary